

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

In brief, claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 13, 17-19, and 21-23 have been amended; claims 2, 7, 12, 14-16, 20, 25, 32-35 have been canceled, without prejudice; and new claims 36-52 have been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A bone fixator for repairing fractures and/or other dislocations of a distal radius and wrist, comprising:

at least one distal mounting element configured to be mounted in a metacarpal bone;

at least one proximal mounting element configured to be mounted in the radius;

a distal member, configured to secure the distal mounting element relative to the distal member;

a proximal member, configured to secure the proximal mounting element relative to the proximal member; and

a coupling connecting the proximal member and the distal member,

wherein the coupling is configured to permit immobilization, as well as adjustable flexion, rotation, and translation of the distal member relative to the proximal member,

wherein the coupling includes a substantially linear, flexible wire that allows the

coupling to flex at a plurality of positions along the wire, and wherein the coupling has a resiliency provided at least mostly by the wire.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The fixator of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the coupling includes a ball and socket joint.

4. (Original) The fixator of claim 1, wherein translation and flexion of the distal member relative to the proximal member are independently adjustable.

5. (Original) The fixator of claim 1, wherein the coupling includes a superelastic portion and one or more rigidizing elements, wherein the rigidizing elements adjustably restrict at least one of translation and flexion of the distal member relative to the proximal member.

6. (Original) The fixator of claim 5, wherein the rigidizing elements include a translation lock, configured adjustably to limit translation of the distal member relative to the superelastic portion.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The fixator of claim 1 [[7]], **wherein the coupling includes a coupling bracket, and** wherein the coupling bracket includes bracket arms that are independently adjustable.

9. (Original) The fixator of claim 1, further comprising at least one reference marking configured to aid in setting at least one of the length, orientation, and flexibility of the fixator.

10. (Currently Amended) A bone fixator for repairing fractures and/or other dislocations of a distal radius and wrist, comprising:

at least one distal mounting element configured to be mounted in a metacarpal bone;

at least one proximal mounting element configured to be mounted in the radius;

a distal member, configured to secure the distal mounting element relative to the distal member;

a proximal member, configured to secure the proximal mounting element relative to the proximal member; and

a coupling configured to connect the proximal member and the distal member, wherein the coupling ~~includes a portion capable of superelastic flexion~~ **is configured to permit immobilization, as well as adjustable flexion, rotation, and translation of the distal member relative to the proximal member, wherein the coupling has a resiliency that allows the coupling to respond resiliently to flexion, and wherein the coupling has a permitted range of flexion that is adjustable without affecting the resiliency.**

11. (Original) The bone fixator of claim 10, wherein the bone fixator is capable of dynamic fixation of the wrist.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 10, **wherein the coupling** ~~superelastic portion including a superelastic metal wire, wherein the wire is~~ **includes a flexible wire extending** generally orthogonal to the distal mounting element[[s]] of the distal member, **and wherein the wire at least substantially provides the resiliency.**

14. -16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 10, wherein the coupling includes an elongate, flexible member and ~~including~~ one or more rigidizing elements, and wherein the rigidizing elements adjustably restrict ~~[[the]]~~ flexion of the flexible member ~~superelastic portion~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 17, wherein the rigidizing elements include a coupling bracket configured to selectively restrict at least one of the flexion and rotation of the distal member element relative to the proximal member.

19. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 17, the flexible member ~~superelastic portion~~ including a ~~superelastic~~ wire, wherein the rigidizing elements include a plurality of annular spacers disposed in engagement with one another on the wire, ~~such that compressing the spacers restricts the flexion of the wire~~.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 10, wherein the coupling includes a wire formed of ~~superelastic portion~~ ~~includes~~ a nickel titanium alloy.

22. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 10, wherein the coupling is configured ~~adjustably secured to the proximal member~~, such that ~~[[one or]]~~ both ~~[[of]]~~ the angle and the distance between the proximal member and the distal member may be adjusted independently and then fixed.

23. (Currently Amended) The bone fixator of claim 10 ~~[[22]]~~, wherein the coupling is configured such ~~adjustably secured to the proximal member~~ so that the vertical angle and the lateral angle between the proximal member and the distal member may be independently adjusted and then fixed.

24. (Original) The fixator of claim 10, further comprising at least one reference marking configured to aid in setting at least one of the length, orientation, and flexibility of the fixator.

25. - 35. (Canceled)

36. (New) The bone fixator of claim 10, wherein a permitted range of the flexion for a pair of opposing directions is adjustable independently for each direction.

37. (New) A bone fixator for repairing fractures and/or other dislocations of a distal radius and wrist, comprising:

a distal member configured to be secured to a distal mounting element mounted in a metacarpal bone;

a proximal member configured to be secured to a proximal mounting element mounted in the radius; and

a coupling connecting the proximal member and the distal member,

wherein the coupling is configured to permit immobilization, as well as adjustable flexion, rotation, and translation of the distal member relative to the proximal member, wherein the fixator has a length and includes a flexible wire of substantially fixed length, wherein the flexible wire creates a flexible portion of the coupling, and wherein the flexible portion extends along a minor fraction of the length of the fixator.

38. (New) The bone fixator of claim 37, wherein the coupling includes a ball and socket joint.

39. (New) The bone fixator of claim 37, wherein the coupling includes a plurality of annular spacers disposed in engagement with one another on the flexible wire.

40. (New) The bone fixator of claim 39, wherein the spacers are discrete.
41. (New) The bone fixator of claim 39, wherein the flexible wire has an end, and wherein the spacers are removable from the flexible wire by sliding the spacers off the end.
42. (New) The bone fixator of claim 37, wherein the flexible wire is formed of a nickel titanium alloy.
43. (New) The bone fixator of claim 42, wherein the flexible wire is superelastic.
44. (New) The bone fixator of claim 37, wherein the coupling is configured such that the vertical angle and the lateral angle between the proximal member and the distal member may be independently adjusted and then fixed.
45. (New) The bone fixator of claim 37, wherein the minor fraction is about one-eighth.
46. (New) A bone fixator for repairing fractures and/or other dislocations of a distal radius and wrist, comprising:
- a distal member configured to be secured to a distal mounting element mounted in a metacarpal bone;
 - a proximal member configured to be secured to a proximal mounting element mounted in the radius; and
 - a coupling connecting the proximal member and the distal member, wherein the coupling is configured to permit immobilization, as well as adjustable flexion, rotation, and translation of the distal member relative to the proximal member, wherein the coupling includes an elongate member having a flexibility that allows the

coupling to flex at a plurality of positions along the elongate member, and wherein the coupling also includes a plurality of annular spacers received on the elongate member and engaged with one another.

47. (New) The bone fixator of claim 46, wherein the spacers are discrete.

48. (New) The bone fixator of claim 46, wherein the elongate member has an end, and wherein the spacers are removable from the elongate member by sliding the spacers off the end.

49. (New) The bone fixator of claim 46, wherein the elongate member is formed of a nickel titanium alloy.

50. (New) The bone fixator of claim 46, wherein the elongate member is superelastic.

51. (New) The bone fixator of claim 46, wherein the coupling is configured such that the vertical angle and the lateral angle between the proximal member and the distal member may be independently adjusted and then fixed.

52. (New) The bone fixator of claim 46, further comprising at least one reference marking configured to aid in setting at least one of the length, orientation, and flexibility of the fixator.